

REMARKS

This is in full and timely response to the final Office Action mailed January 22, 2003, submitted concurrently with a Petition of an extension of time to within the third extended month. Entry of this Amendment is proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 since the amendment: (a) places the application in condition for allowance (for the reasons discussed herein); (b) does not raise any new issues requiring further search and/or consideration; (c) satisfies a requirement of form asserted in the previous Office Action; and (d) places the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. The amendment is necessary and was not earlier presented because it is made in response to arguments raised in the final rejection. Entry of this amendment is respectfully requested. Reexamination and reconsideration in light of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

By this amendment, claim 1-5 were cancelled, and claims 6-7 were amended. Claim 6 was amended to direct the claim to a "molded article," and claim 7 was amended to direct the claim to a "plate-shaped molded article." Support for this amendment can be found variously throughout the specification, for example, original claims 6-7. No new matter was added. Accordingly, claims 6-7 are pending in this application, with claims 6 and 7 being independent.

Claim Objections

Claims 6 to 7 were objected to as failing to further limit the claims from which they depend, that is, the previously incorporated claim 1. Applicants respectfully traverse this objection.

However, in order to expedite prosecution, claim 6 was amended to direct the claim to a "molded article," and claim 7 was amended to direct the claim to a "plate-shaped molded article." That is, claim 6 is directed to a molded article comprising the transparent film, and claim 7 is directed to a plate-shaped molded article comprising the transparent film, thereby providing a material limitation to the claims. Withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-4 and 6-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,946,531 to Crouch et al. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claims 1-2 and 4-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,329,041 to Tsuchiya et al. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claims 1-2 and 6-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,378,735 to Hosokawa et al. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claims 1 and 5-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,250,723 to Suzuki et al. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

However, in order to expedite prosecution, Applicants have cancelled claims 1-5 without prejudice or disclaimer, thereby mooting those portions of the rejections.

Since claims 6-7 were rejected only under the proposition that these claims did not contain further limitation to those recited in claim 1, and as these claims were amended as discussed above to be directed to a molded article and a plate-shaped molded article, respectively, withdrawal of these rejections is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 2-5 were variously rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable by Crouch et al. '531, Tsuchiya et al. '041, Hosokawa et al. '735 and Suzuki et al. '723 in various combinations. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

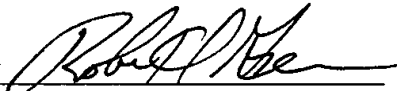
However, in order to expedite prosecution, Applicants have cancelled claims 1-5 without prejudice or disclaimer, thereby mooting all of the §103 rejections. Accordingly, withdrawal of these rejections is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, claims 6-7 are allowable, and the present application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reexamination and reconsideration of the application in light of these amendments and remarks is courteously solicited. If the examiner has any comments or suggestions that would place this application in even better form, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number below.

Dated: July 18, 2003

Respectfully submitted,

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